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"keeps up with Hitler to the minute"

A news-letter issued by the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda, Inc.

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Number 5

June 30, 1939

KUHN, SCHWINN & CO. ARE LISTED BY GOEBBELS UNDER "GERMANY"

Filing System in Berlin Belies Bund's Claim to Americanism--
Informant of The Hour Reveals Headings and Numbers of Files

On June 22, Federal Judge Ralph E. Jenney revoked the United States citizenship of Herman Schwinn, leader of the German-American Bund in Los Angeles. The revocation was caused by Schwinn's false statements, potted and exposed by the U. S. immigration authorities, with regard to the length of his residence in the state of California.

Judge Jenney's decision once more brings to the fore the problem of the Bundites' "Americanism." In view of the many conflicting statements continually made by Bund members on the question of their allegiance, The Hour decided to go to the trouble of checking up a few pertinent points in the official archives of Berlin. Our informant supplied us with the following data:

Section VII Includes Kuhn and His Men

Schwinn, Kuhn and other Bund leaders and members claim that they are Americans and that their organization is American, but how would they explain the fact that all the material on them and their Bund is filed away in Berlin, in Goebbels' ministry of propaganda, under the heading "Germany," and sub-heading "Germans in America," and not in the division marked "the United States"? In fact, while the originals of all the documents dealing with the Bund, Herr Kuhn and other little German-American fuhrers are filed under "Germany," only duplicates are kept under "the United States." Herr Kuhn and his subleaders always refer to their American citizenship but as far as the Nazi government is concerned they are not Americans but Germans and loyal subjects of Adolf.

The records of Kuhn, Schwinn and others are kept in Section VII of Goebbels' ministry. The official name of the section is "Luegenabwehr und Auslandspropaganda," or Defense Against Lies and Propaganda Abroad. There are fourteen sections in the ministry, the files including those accumulated since 1915, first by the kaiser's government, and

then by the republican foreign office. The republican government kept those files at Wilhelmstrasse 76-78, but Goebbels, expanding them greatly, transferred them to Wilhelmplatz 8, a castle-like formidable-looking building opposite the chancellory. These files serve not only the propaganda ministry but the army and the Gestapo as well, both of which organizations naturally have their own extensive files.

Through the Bund to U. S. Politics and Raw Materials

In addition to sections, the Berlin files are divided into points. There are forty-four points, further divided in greater detail, all of which cover the entire world. All the papers pertaining to Kuhn's Bund are filed away under Point 8, "Gebiets- und Bevoelkerungsfragen," or Territory- and Population-Problems. Under this point Goebbels keeps all the documents dealing not only with the territories lost by Germany as the result of the World War, but also pertaining to the countries where Hitler's Reich is eager to gain control over politics and the much-needed raw materials. America is definitely such a territory in the Nazi eyes, and that is why Kuhn's papers are kept under Point 8.

Kuhn is by no means an exception. All the leaders of Nazi-controlled organizations in foreign countries are handled in the same way. The deputy leader of the Nazi party for each country is usually attached to the embassy, as is the propaganda chief, who is most often known as the cultural attache. The party deputy leader in each foreign country collects the dues of the party members, issues stamps and supplies the files relating to the activities of the party members. These dues are in addition to, and separate from, the dues paid by members to the Bund or other such clubs and disguised organizations. All party applications, however, are kept in Munich in the Nazi party headquarters. Party numbers and all party membership books are issued from Munich. The Berlin propaganda ministry files do not contain any of this material. While Munich handles the financial and structural parts, the political direction is supplied by the "Auslandsstelle der N.S.D.A.P.," or the foreign bureau of the Nazi party, headed by Ernst Wilhelm Bohle at Tiergartenstrasse 4 in Berlin (see The Hour for April 30).

Kuhn's Uniforms Designed in Berlin

Section VII, Point 8 of Goebbels' ministry in Berlin also takes care of designs for uniforms worn by members of all such organizations abroad as the German-American Bund in the United States. These designs aim to make the marching clothes of Nazis in America, as well as of Nazis in all other foreign countries, resemble Nazi uniforms in the Reich as closely as possible. The uniforms of Kuhn, Schwinn and other Bundites, although tailored in America, were designed in Berlin, under the zealous supervising eye of Herr Goebbels and his Section VII.

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ATTACK ON BOY IN BALTIMORE NO ISOLATED CASE

Thorough Investigation Would Reveal Role of Adult Fascists

BALTIMORE, June 28--The attack on Melvin Bridge, 14-year old Jewish student of the Gwynns Falls Junior High School here, by a group of his fellow students, continues to occupy the citizens' attention. Several investigations, now in progress, reveal that the attack was no sudden or isolated phenomenon but had a background of previous strife influenced by outside forces. The Hour's correspondent learns that for several days before Friday, June 9, when Bridge was thrown on the grass and the letter H (for "Hebrew") carved on his neck, anti-Jewish signs had been posted on bulletin boards of the Gwynns Falls School. They were crudely drawn pen-and-ink sketches, apparently made by students, and were quickly torn down by teachers. One such sign showed a Jew being hung from a cross.

Various students at the school have connected the disturbances with a German teacher on the faculty. This woman, of German descent, is reported to have spoken approvingly of Nazi racial policies in one of her classes which contained no Jews. One of the leaders of the attack on Bridge, Carrol Phillips, 17-year old boy scout, is a pupil in this particular class, The Hour is informed. The teacher is still meeting her classes.

Rumors of a Nazi boy scout troop have been vigorously denied by local boy scout executives. However, your correspondent knows of a Nazi military organization in Baltimore which tries to include boys in its ranks. The city has a large German population, and the Gwynns Falls School is located in West Baltimore where the German element is concentrated. Certain united German societies within the last two years have given evidence of an opulence not previously enjoyed. They recently purchased for their headquarters a large building, formerly occupied by a private school, in downtown Baltimore, and expensively redecorated it. Hitherto they had met in a rented second-class hall. A movie theater, showing Nazi-made films, is apparently run in close conjunction with the societies.

There are, however, many local Germans who indignantly disassociate themselves from Hitler's gangsters. The Baltimore branch of the German-American League for Culture is actively combating Nazi influence in the city. Its representatives participated in an open-air meeting held on June 17 and demanding a complete investigation of the Bridge case.

Nazi-Youth Toughs in Other Cities

The Hour can definitely state that a vigorous Nazi youth movement is in evidence in many other American cities. It takes its cue from Kuhn's German-American Bund, Pelley's Silver Shirts, Deatherage's Nationalists, Coughlin's group and other fascist organizations. That the Baltimore school case was of such outside sponsorship may be seen from the fact that tremendous quantities of hatred-sowing handbills have been distributed in the schools of that city, frequently even forced into students' pockets. In Baltimore, Philadelphia, Trenton, New York and other cities members of

the youth division appear at Bund rallies in boy scout uniforms, with the labels ripped off. Six-inch hunting knives are kept in sheaths attached to the wearers' belts. Lately, in New York City, these boys have also been emulating their elders by carrying heavy metal-bottomed flashlights and wearing riding boots. Attacks on Jewish boys have been known to occur in New York and New Jersey.

The parents of some such young toughs are German anti-Nazis. Cases have been known where the children were severely censured by their parents for joining the Hitlerite youth movement and reacted by informing the Bund of their families' disapproval. This has frequently led to visits from local Bund thugs threatening reprisals against relatives in Germany if the children were not permitted to stay in the movement.

The Hour is informed that on June 13, at Tri-Boro Palace in the Bronx, at a closed meeting of the fascist organization "Crusaders for Americanism," one of the adult leaders, Joe McWilliams, referred to the Baltimore attack as just "a little scratch on the face." He shouted to his seventy-five listeners: "Wait till the people in America are finally aroused, then you will see that Hitler has been lenient!" On June 21, in the same hall, at a closed meeting of the American Nationalists Party, the notorious fascist Henry Curtis with his tongue in cheek denied to the audience of some four hundred people that the Baltimore "job" was the handiwork of an organized Junior Bund. On June 7, also at the Tri-Boro, at a closed meeting of some two hundred fifty fascists of the Nationalists party, the violent speeches of the adult leaders were supplemented by the efforts of Bill O'Connor, a youngster who had been expelled from the Evander Childs High School for anti-Semitic hooliganism. He demonstrated one hundred feet of 16 mm. film, taken by him, of the Coughlinite picketers around Station WMCA and of Coughlinite vendors cackling Social Justice. This enterprising youth confides privately that he is planning some more fascist-angle films and that he will run them with the oral comments of Russell Dunn. The latter has been affiliated with many fascist groups, such as the Paul Revere Sentinels, the Spirit of '76, the American Nationalists, and was listed as a speaker at the Bund's "pro-American" rally in Madison Square Garden on February 20 last.

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ANTI-NAZI WORK TO BE COORDINATED

Last month, five hundred delegates representing twenty-eight countries met at Paris, France, for a conference of organizations standing for defense of peace, freedom and human dignity. An appeal was addressed to the people of Germany to put a stop to Hitler and his band, and so save mankind from an imminent war. A committee was named to coordinate anti-Nazi activities in various countries. William E. Dodd, chairman of the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda, Norman Angell of the United States and England, Heinrich Mann of Germany-in-exile, and Dr. Nils Silfverskiold of Stockholm, Sweden, are among members of the coordinating committee.

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HITLER'S HENCHMEN INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS IN DETROIT

DETROIT, June 29--Fascist activity in Detroit automobile plants is increasing weekly. Literature of numerous brutalitarian organizations is regularly distributed, and their recruiting campaigns are being intensified. Most of these Hitler-inspired groups mask their true identity by posing as labor organizations. The latest clique of this kind, uncovered here by The Hour, is the "National Workers League." One of its leaflets tries to blame economic troubles on "Jewish influence in American public life," yet, in the well known Coughlinite fashion, announces that the League is not anti-Semitic. Membership cards for the League are signed by the notorious pro-fascist, Parker Sage, who last summer spoke at a Gorman-Nazi celebration held at the Detroit Creamery Park near Mt. Clemens. In that speech he bunched together Communists and Jews; he attacked Negroes, saying that "they're being smuggled into Detroit"; and he praised Hitler's racial pogroms. Parker Sage is also known as a former member of the Chevrolet Gear and Axle Local of the United Automobile Workers, expelled from that union on charges of being a labor spy.

Another fascist organization, calling itself "Industrial Legion of America" (see The Hour for May 30), is now trying to penetrate not only employees' homes but also their places of work. The Packard Motor Company here is the latest automobile plant in which fascist activities of the "Industrial Legion," directed against foreign-born workers, have been discovered. One morning, thousands of Packard workers arrived in the plant to find on their work-benches and along the conveyor-lines cards of that organization addressing to American-born gentiles a vicious attack upon aliens and Jews, written in a manner resembling a mixture of Coughlin's and Goebbels' styles. Commenting on these cards, the UAW-CIO union officials at Packard pointed out the significance of the recent release from prison of several Black Legion members.

With Father Coughlin making his headquarters here, with Gerald L. K. Smith, national chairman of fascistic Committee of One Million, hanging around this city; with Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling (of "Red-Network" fame) coming here to visit; with swastikas chalked on the sidewalks, and roving bands of young vandals slashing tires of Jewish-owned cars, it is beginning to look as if Detroit were becoming the capital of America's Hitlerites.

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BOYCOTT OF GERMAN GOODS WORRIES ARGENTINE NAZIS

Deutsche Wacht, organ of the German-Nazi party in Argentina and Uruguay, prints prominently the following appeal: "German women, the major part of your family's expenditures passes through your hands. Therefore decide: Buy only German goods!" In this and other ways the Nazis try to boycott Latin American and North American goods sold below the Rio Grande. They have also attempted to thwart the natives' boycott of German goods by taking to courts the anti-Nazi organizations of Argentina sponsoring such boycott. The Argentinian courts have, however, ruled that boycott of German goods was perfectly legal.

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PEOPLE ARE NOT WITH HITLER, SAYS GERMAN YOUTH

Reporter for The Hour Obtains Interview Aboard Nazi Ship

For some time past, a German-speaking reporter of The Hour has been looking for a chance to board one of the German liners docking in American ports and to have a quiet long talk with some or other seaman freshly arrived from the Reich. The task was not an easy one, since a careful checkup system, gradually but thoroughly developed, allows the Nazis to restrict the number and sort of visitors boarding German ships in foreign ports and attempting to talk to the seamen.

Last week, aided by a German-American sympathizer of our work, The Hour man succeeded. Two members of a ship's crew were interviewed, a petty officer in the machine division, and a young assistant. We present the interview with the youth. It will be noticed that at first the youth's tone was rather reserved but, as the interview progressed and confidence strengthened, he spoke more openly and with less fear. In a future issue, depending on measures of caution dictated by concern for certain lives, we may publish the interview with the petty officer.

For obvious reasons, neither the name of the Nazi ship nor the name of the American port can be made public.

The Two Generations and War

How old are you?

Almost nineteen.

Can you talk freely?

Only to my friends here on board and those for whom they vouch. We all fear the spying of the (Nazi) party members and of the special agents of the supervising service. We, the younger ones, are often distrusted. The older anti-Nazis sometimes refuse to talk on war-experiences to us younger ones. Suppose there is a quarrel during our work on board the ship. Suppose a youngster tries to get even with an older man, a superior on duty, by denouncing him to the Gestapo. That's what the older ones fear, that's why they won't talk to us as freely as we really wish them to. And we do want to hear what they think of the World War and the next war.

What is the feeling among the younger ones in the crew on this question of war?

Some blindly believe Hitler's and Goebbels' propaganda. They believe in the strength of the Reich's armed forces. They think England would never fight her sister Germany. Some, like myself, know that we can't trust the Albion, neither can the Russians. But most of the youngsters just don't know what war is.

What do the older ones feel?

They don't want any more wars and they try to teach us. Person-

ally each will find ways to stay out of the war. They are mostly old fighters in the revolution of 1918-19, and such men don't change.

Spies and Sabotage

What organizations have you on board?

Automatically all of us are members of the German Labor Front, but its meetings don't require much time. The political education supplied by the Front is of a very low level. Some belong to the Nazi party, but membership is restricted, we have to give references to get in. Our Ortsgruppenleiter (director of the party-cell on board) is not too bad. He is very critical of Hitler's foreign policy. But that would not stop him from reporting seamen's anti-Nazi activities. Besides him, there are agents of the supervising body. These spies are in all the departments of the ship. They watch our money-spending, our conversations. When we reach Hamburg they give the names of suspects among us to the Gestapo officials who board the ship and search the reported men. That's a dreadful moment, the moment of our arrival. One of the ships lost six men -- they were held on a charge of buying in a shop on 42nd Street in New York. It was not even known for sure that the shop was Jewish. The report said, "probably Jewish."

What about the anti-Nazi activity on board?

Well, I am not close enough to know details. But there must be a group of some old reliable mates. They start all sorts of talk among us, they spread fear of war among the crew, and they have an illegal paper, which somehow they manage to bring on board. The paper is so successful that the Ortsgruppenleiter called the crew together to warn everybody not to touch that paper while we are in America.. When I get that paper, I just read it and then throw it away instead of passing it around, as other mates are doing. You see, I am young and new, and I am afraid. Oh yes, we did have recently some talk how easy it would be to do sabotage. You know, it is easy to throw the ship's engine out of commission for a long time to come -- all we have to do is sprinkle the bearings with sand. That's the kind of resistance that may keep us out of war.

You mean it will keep your ship out of war?

That's right. Suppose we are in a foreign port and get the order to come back because war is near. You know, many of us won't fight for Hitler. Well, there will be sand handy, and other ways, too. A group of such resisting mates can easily become leaders of the entire ship. Neither the captain nor the Ortsgruppenleiter will be able to do much.

Ordered to Cheer

Can you tell me about your experience in the Hitler Youth Organization? Why did you join, and what was the situation after you dropped out?

A youth between 14 and 18 who wants to get a job or an apprenticeship has to be a member of the HY. So I joined too. But the time was wasted, no fun, no study. Sundays we had to march, to sing military songs, and listen to what they called "lectures." I dropped out when I got my

job. Now I am of the age to join the SA (Storm Troopers), but I am not joining, and many others aren't joining either. People know by now that joining Storm Troopers doesn't do them any good. The government is trying to drag young men into the SA. There is a new decree that you have to join the Storm Troopers before and after your military service. Our fathers are telling us bad things about war, and that has more influence than "lectures" in the Hitler organizations.

And do you think this anti-war talk of the older people is having results?

Of course. Here is an example. You must have heard of the launching of the Bismarck in Hamburg. That's the new battleship, 35,000 tons, built by Blohm & Voss. Thousands of people were brought to the launching, with orders to cheer, but among the cheerers there was not a single navy-yard worker. A few navy-yard workers tried to cheer, but others sneered at them and they shut their mouths at once.

But who were the people that obeyed the Nazi orders to cheer?

The Nazi party and the SA gathered their entire membership of Hamburg and the nearby towns. They even ordered their members in other ports to come to the launching and cheer. And still they did not get much cheering done. On the radio you heard the noise of tremendous cheering, but that was a bunch of phonograph records on the microphone! The plant of Blohm & Voss is famous for the strong anti-Nazi feeling among its workers. On payday the Nazis can't sell the official Labor Front paper to the men.

Food and Wages

How are food and wages on German liners?

The food is much better than on German shore. You see, we must have fine stuff for our foreign passengers -- meat, butter, and eggs. A little of that gets to our mess-table, too. The Nazis can't let us starve in front of the foreign passengers. But our wages are low. I get 135 marks a month, but the deductions run up to 37 marks, so I actually get only 98. That isn't enough to live on while on shore. So I remain on board all the time, even during my leave in Hamburg.

What is the food situation in Hamburg?

No butter, unless you have a card which entitles you to a quarter pound per week, and your name has to be on the customers' list in a certain store. Almost no eggs. They appear on the market very irregularly and cost 12 to 13 pfennigs each (in 1932 the price was 7-8 pfennigs). There isn't enough coffee, so we bring it in privately. You see that bag over there? It's coffee. I bought it in one of your city grocery stores. Ten pounds. We are entitled to bring that much per person if we pay duty in Hamburg. Every trip we import about 1000 pounds of coffee all told. Some of us dare to sell it to outsiders instead of using it for our families as the law tells us. We make money that way. It's good coffee, and the shortage of coffee in Germany has certainly pushed the price up and up.

What of the Ersatz food? Have you used it? And Ersatz clothing? Yes, I have used margarine instead of butter. But it's expen-

sive too, we pay almost twice as much for margarine as we used to in 1932. And this new margarine isn't good anymore. Years ago you couldn't smell the difference between butter and margarine. Now margarine smells bad. And it gets rancid very quickly. Ersatz coats and trousers are bad -- we've got to be careful in rainy weather, else the clothing gets badly warped. The new Ersatz rubber is twice as expensive as the real rubber.

Tell me of your life before you came to the ship.

Well, I had my four years of machineshop-apprenticeship in S.... Now they have only three years. The school program is reduced because of shortage of men. That, of course, reduces men's skill.

What were the wages in the shop where you were an apprentice?

Very low -- bad living. An unskilled worker in that city (in Central Germany) gets 24 marks per week. In Hamburg he gets 28, but that's not enough to live on. The worst conditions are faced by the Sudeten Germans. They have been promised 40 marks if they leave their homeland...

You mean to leave the very villages for which they fought the Czechs?

Yes. These men are being taken into old Germany. But they never get the promised 40 marks. Once they move to old Germany they are told that as newcomers they are entitled only to 25 marks. And a new decree forbids them to return to the Sudeten region without special permits. And so they are kept away from their homes and families.

No Free Trade for German Farmers

How does your family get along?

I only have father and mother. They run a vegetable farm. Father gets around a lot among farmers, and he tells me that farmers have a hard time. No more free trade, you know, they have to deliver their produce to an agency of the Reichsernährungsstand (an organization encompassing all agricultural production). Prices are fixed. Father can keep some butter and vegetables for his own family. He is not allowed to sell any produce outside the Reich's agencies. Naturally he does. For the government price is low, and the price the consumer pays is high. Farmers are fined if they are caught. Those who raise cattle are in a worse position than truck-garden farmers. Supply of fodder for the cattle has been poor, and it has to be imported. That is the reason for the widespread slaughter of cattle in 1937, and for the shortage of meat in 1938 and this year.

What does your father say about the whole system?

He thinks it's just robbery and corruption. He praises the times before Hitler came to power. He wants free trade again. Besides, he doesn't want to go to war.

World's Democracy Should Help Anti-Nazi Germans

Do you think foreign democratic organizations should help the anti-Nazis in Germany? What would you expect of them?

Of course, they should help the real Germany, the anti-Nazi

people. Perhaps it's possible to put one outstanding speaker or leader or statesman at the head of all international anti-Hitler organizations. Let him argue against Hitler whenever Hitler speaks. Let him lead all moves against Hitler's claims and propaganda. Give him full chance to get into Germany by radio, so that we in Germany can listen to him. That would be a marvelous job.

Do you have anyone in mind to be such a leader?

Yes, I think of Roosevelt. Of course, he is in an official position. But if he hadn't been, he would have been very good. And I am sure he would have been willing to sacrifice his time to that kind of work. I wish you could find such a leader for us. The German people would listen to such a leader as representing the democratic, anti-Nazi world. I think you must find one.

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PORTUGUESE PEOPLE OPPOSE TIES WITH NAZIS

Use Clover Methods Against Axis Influence

A friend of The Hour has received a letter from a Portuguese acquaintance which he has graciously relayed to us for publication. In view of Portugal's totalitarian regime, the correspondent's name is withheld.

Lisbon, May 19, 1939

The formation of the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda is a very interesting move. We have not and cannot have any such organization in this country. Portugal, in spite of the international prestige she now enjoys, is too small a country to indulge in open antagonism to powerful countries. But I am glad to notice that the onetime admiration of Germany and of all that is German, is now being superseded by a definite hatred of her present rulers' methods and violence, and that a boycott of German goods and "culture" is noticeable in many quarters.

The public reception accorded to a German squadron visiting Lisbon last week was very different from the enthusiastic cheering which was extended to the sailors of two French men-of-war which were here a few days previously. A play written by a well-known lawyer and dramatist, which is an unmistakable satire of the dictators, is now being performed in one of the theaters to crowded houses every evening. The action of the play is presented in such an innocent way, and the dialogue is so cleverly constructed, that no member of the totalitarian communities can take legal exception to it.

A group of individuals have been distributing among their friends copies of reprints from the American magazine, Life, showing a picture of a swastika in use on a leaflet of the 1890s advertising a Tokyo house of prostitution. All who see it seem to enjoy the joke but there is no question of publishing the item in the Portuguese press, first because no newspaper would allow it, and then because publication would probably provoke a protest from the German legation, thus causing trouble to all those people and disrupting their good work. As it is, with the present method of distribution, there is a growing number of people out here who know that the proud swastika is also the emblem of prostitution in the allied Japan.

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